

Dear members of the Panel on the Administration of Justice and Legal Services ,

How do you do? I am a secondary school teacher who has overriding concerns over the Consultation Paper (Part 1) on Gender Recognition that the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition put forward earlier. Specifically, I oppose gender recognition legislation of any kind based on the following principles:

**1. Sex is biological and physiological**

An individual's sex is determined by the chromosomes in his or her body. It is inherently biological. Gender, on the other hand, is a sociological term that attempts to describe and categorize males and females based on one's behavior and preferences. "Assigned gender" and "affirmed gender" are relatively new terms coined by LGBT advocates to advance their cause. Men and women have always been differentiated based on their physiological differences and this practice must continue.

**2. Hong Kong is not Britain (or any other Western country)**

Despite the Group's claim that there are no preset notions about the issue, the consultation documents are clearly based on the British ordinance on gender recognition, which is in line with the country's same-sex marriage system and self-autonomy over one's "gender". Hong Kong is not Britain. Same sex union is not recognized here nor is sex by self-determination. Hence, it is unnecessary to copy other countries.

**3. Love and care is the best medicine**

I sympathize with individuals who are suffering from gender dysphoria but sex reassignment surgery is not something to be taken lightly. The procedure is traumatic and irreversible and therefore, should be considered as a last resort. Medical personnel and mental health experts should show extra care and concern throughout a patient's therapy as to help him or her embrace his or her biological sex. That being said, should an individual decide to change his or her sex designation on the HKID card, he or she must go through the aforementioned procedure (approved by a certified surgeon), and NOT through any kind of self-declaration.

#### **4. Respect goes both ways**

Even after going under the knife, transgender individuals cannot change their biological sex. That is an undeniable fact. However, it is perfectly understandable that these individuals would have trouble reintegrating into society and I am all for the government implementing measures to help transgender persons acclimate to whatever changes they face. That being said, such measures should not lead to conflicts with or unjust treatment of religious, athletic and social groups, whose rights and freedoms are just as guaranteed and protected as those of transgender individuals. In other words, all parties must be fully and fairly consulted before any talk on legislation.

**As such, I hereby oppose legislation of any kind on gender recognition and I also oppose sex designation change on the HKID card through self-declaration without surgery. Any individual who attempts to change his or her sex must be strictly and stringently monitored pre- and post-reassignment surgery. At the same time, the government and the Hospital Authority should provide individuals suffering from gender dysphoria extra counseling and assistance. Last but certainly not least, LGBT groups and the majority of the population should strive for mutual understanding and respect so as not to inflict pain and suffering on one another.**

Sincerely,

C. Foo